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Movima language

Movima is a language that is spoken by about 1,400 (nearly half) of the Movima, a group of Native Americans that resides in the Llanos de Moxos region of the Bolivian Amazon, in northeastern Bolivia. It is considered a language isolate, as it has not been proven to be related to any other language.

Movima	
Chosine ɨ di' mowi:maj [1]	
Native to	Bolivia
Region	Beni Department
Native speakers	ca. 1,400 (2006)[1]
Language family	Language isolate
Official status	
Official language in	Bolivia[2]
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	`mzp`
Glottolog	`movi1243 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/movi1243)`[3]

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Locations

Movima is spoken in the locations of 18 de Noviembre, 20 de Enero, Bella Flor, Buen Día, Carmen de Iruyañez, Carnavales, Ipimo, Miraflores, Navidad, San Lorenzo, Santa Ana del Yacuma.[4]

Phonology

Movima has five vowels:

The vowels of Movima

	Front	Central	Back
Close	i		u
Mid	e		o
Open		a	

/e/ and /o/ more closely resemble [ɛ] and [ɔ], respectively, than the close-mid vowels [e] and [o]. Vowels have a phonemic length distinction, although some prosodic processes can lengthen otherwise short vowels. Movima does not have tone.[5]

The consonants of Movima

		Labial	Alveolar		Palatal	Velar		Glottal
			central	lateral		plain	lab.	
Nasal		m	n					
Stop	pulmonic	p	t		tʃ	k (g)	kʷ	
	implosive	ɓ	ɗ					
Fricative		(f) β	s	ɬ				h
Approximant				l	j	w		jˀ
Trill			r					

The plosive /p/ is realized as [p] in the syllable onset but as [pʔᵐ] (which contrasts with the simple nasal phoneme /m/) in the coda. Similarly, /t/ and /k/ are realized as [tʔⁿ] and [ʔˠ] (i.e., as a glottal stop with a vocalic release), respectively, in the syllable coda.[1] In vowel-initial words and between adjacent vowels, an epenthetic glottal stop appears.

The phonemes /f/ and /g/ are only present in Spanish loanwords.

Morphology

In Movima, compounding and incorporation are productive derivational processes. Reduplication and affixation, including some processes (such as the irrealis marker *(k)a'*) that resemble infixation, are also common. Typical examples of inflection, such as number, case, tense, mood, and aspect, are not obligatorily marked in Movima.[1] Many derivational processes can be applied to a single Movima word. The same morpheme may appear multiple times in one word this way, for instance, *tikoy-na-poj-na* "I make X kill Y."

Vocabulary

Loukotka (1968) lists the following basic vocabulary items.[6]

gloss	Mobima
one	sotaru
two	oira
three	taxra
tooth	söichlan
tongue	rulkua
hand	chopa
woman	kukya
water	toni
fire	vé
moon	yekcho
maize	kuaxta
jaguar	rulrul
house	roya

See also

- Llanos de Moxos (archaeology)

Further reading

- Judy, R. A.; Judy, J. (1962). Movima y castellano. (Vocabularios Bolivianos, 1). Vocabularios Bolivianos. Cochabamba: Summer Institute of Linguistics.

References

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2. "Constitution of Bolivia, Article 5. I." (https://web.archive.org/web/20090521023641/http://www.presidencia.gob.bo/download/constitucion.pdf) (PDF). Archived from the original (http://www.presidencia.gob.bo/download/constitucion.pdf) (PDF) on 2009-05-21.
3. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Movima" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/movi1243). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
4. Eberhard, David M.; Simons, Gary F.; Fennig, Charles D., eds. (2019). "Bolivia languages" (https://www.ethnologue.com/country/BO/languages). *Ethnologue: Languages of the World* (22nd ed.). Dallas: SIL International.
5. "WALS – Movima" (http://wals.info/languoid/lect/wals_code_mov). *World Atlas of Language Structures Online*. Retrieved 2008-10-24.
6. Loukotka, Čestmír (1968). *Classification of South American Indian languages* (https://archive.org/details/classificationof0007louk). Los Angeles: UCLA Latin American Center.

External links

- World Atlas of Language Structures information on Movima (http://wals.info/languoid/lect/wals_code_mov)
- Lenguas de Bolivia (http://www.ru.nl/lenguasdebolivia/) (online edition)
- Movima (https://ids.clld.org/contributions/285) (Intercontinental Dictionary Series)

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